

POETRY | FALL 2014

Thinner

By Lauren Catlett

You are thinner
now than when I saw you last.
Your body
folded under the fabric
of your hospital gown
exposes
your bones
lamellae like lace
of a bridal gown
time-worn,
crack
like your delicate veins
when your blood
billows in bruises
beneath your skin
tissue-thin,
a shroud creased by time
that trembles at the touch
and tears.
Tears, mine,
thinner now
that time has passed,
wash away the picture
of you, thinner
than when I saw you last.

Lauren Catlett is an artist, writer, and editor of the book *Shared Doings and Sayings*, a collection of stories and artwork by persons with dementia. She is currently a graduate nursing student in the Clinical Nurse Leader program at the University of Virginia.

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